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Israel's Operation Swords of Iron Update June 4, 2024

JINSA's [Israel at War](#) webpage is a dedicated resource for analysis, commentary, webinars, and media coverage about the 10/7 attacks and the ensuing conflict between Israel, the Iranian regime, and the regime's proxies. An update with the latest information and analysis about the war is below. JINSA will release its last Swords of Iron Update on Friday.

Analysis

- An Israeli ceasefire proposal that President Biden outlined during a [speech](#) on May 31 would enable Israel to recover all of the remaining living and deceased hostages being held in Gaza, one of its objectives for the war. However, by suggesting that hostilities would end permanently, seemingly before an IDF operation to remove the four remaining Hamas battalions in Rafah, it could also put at risk the IDF's ability to achieve another key objective: defeating Hamas as a military and political entity in Gaza.
 - » Prime Minister Netanyahu has indicated that Israel's objectives for the war have not changed and that Israel's ceasefire proposal would maintain its ability to defeat Hamas.
 - » With reports indicating that there may be gaps between what President Biden revealed during his speech and what Israel proposed, any daylight between U.S. and Israeli officials could further embolden Hamas to take a harder negotiating posture.
 - When asked if Prime Minister Netanyahu is prolonging the war for political reasons during an [interview](#) with *TIME Magazine* released on June 4, President Biden responded that "there is every reason for people to draw that conclusion." This claim only strengthens the perception of growing tensions between the United States and Israel.

**THREE-PHASE PROPOSAL
FOR A DURABLE PEACE IN
THE MIDDLE EAST**

PHASE 1

- A complete ceasefire
- Withdrawal of Israeli forces from populated areas in Gaza
- Release of some hostages and some remains of hostages
- Palestinian civilians can return to their homes in Gaza
- A surge in humanitarian aid

PHASE 2

- A permanent end to hostilities
- Exchange for the release of remaining living hostages
- Israeli forces withdraw from Gaza

PHASE 3

- Major reconstruction plan for Gaza
- Final remains of hostages are returned to their families

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Since May 31

Attacks Against Israel

Lebanon

- Rockets struck [Kiryat Shmona](#), and sirens [sounded](#) in Nahariya, Rosh Hanikra, Shlomi, [Arab al-Aramshe](#), [Ma'alot Tarshiha](#), and [Acre](#).
- On June 3, Hezbollah [took credit](#) for firing dozens of projectiles toward the Golan Heights, ostensibly at IDF targets, inflicting no reported injuries. In addition, the terror group said that it fired a drone rigged with explosives toward Metula that day.
- On June 3, two one-way attack drones [launched](#) from Lebanon targeted Keren Naftali. The IDF said its air defenses intercepted one of the drones while the other struck the area.
- On June 2, more than 40 rockets, missiles, and drones were [fired](#) at northern Israel.
 - » The IDF [said](#) that it used the Iron Dome to shoot down numerous rockets that terrorists in Lebanon fired toward Margalot in northern Israel.
 - » Several drones were [launched](#) from Lebanon towards the Nahariya area. Footage showed an Iron Dome interceptor missile engaging one of the drones. No injuries were reported in the attack.
 - The IDF [said](#) that it tried to shoot down a drone that terrorists in Lebanon fired toward Nahariya, but the interception did not succeed, and the drone sparked a fire after striking the town.
 - » The IDF said 15 rockets were [intercepted](#) by air defenses over Kiryat Shmona.
 - Two people were lightly [wounded](#) by shrapnel in the attack, and the city reported there were three impact sites caused by the barrage, including major damage to buildings and infrastructure.
 - » The IDF [said](#) at least 10 rockets were fired at the Katzrin area, sparking several fires. No injuries were reported.
 - » Two one-way attack drones were [launched](#) from Lebanon targeting Katzrin, both of which landed in open areas. No injuries were reported, but one of the drones sparked a fire, which was later extinguished. Hezbollah claimed the drones were targeting an Iron Dome battery.
 - » A building in Metula was [damaged](#) by anti-tank missile fire.
- On June 1, two rockets were [fired](#) from Lebanon targeting Yiftah, both of which landed in open areas.
- On June 1, the IDF [said](#) a “suspicious aerial target,” likely a drone, was intercepted by the Iron Dome over Acre.
- On June 1, the IDF [confirmed](#) one of its drones, likely a Hermes 900 model, was shot down by a surface-to-air missile while operating over southern Lebanon. This was the fourth IDF drone shot down by Hezbollah since October 7; one other Hermes 900 model and two Hermes 450 drones have been downed.
- On June 1, Israel’s *Kan* public broadcaster [reported](#) that a rocket fired from Lebanon caused damage to a building in Kiryat Shmona. No injuries were reported.

- On June 1, Hezbollah [said](#) that it fired heavy “Burkan” rockets toward an IDF base near Kiryat Shmona, which leaders of the town said inflicted serious damage to civilian infrastructure.
- On May 31, a barrage of nine rockets was [fired](#) from Lebanon toward Ga’aton, seven of which struck open areas, according to the IDF.
- On May 31, a barrage of six rockets was [fired](#) from Lebanon at Peki’in, all of which were intercepted by air defenses, according to the IDF.
- On May 31, multiple Iron Dome [interceptions](#) were reported in the Upper Galilee after a barrage of rockets was fired from Lebanon, causing sirens to sound in Ma’alot Tarshiha and several nearby communities.
- On May 31, the IDF [said](#) it shot down a drone launched from Lebanon over Acre.

West Bank

- On June 3, unknown assailants [fired](#) at an Israeli car and bus near Beit Hagai in the West Bank, near Hebron. The attack inflicted no reported injuries.

Red Sea

- On June 3, the IDF [said](#) that it used the Arrow air defense system to shoot down a ballistic missile likely fired by the Houthis in Yemen toward Eilat.

IDF Operations

- On June 3, Israel’s Shin Bet internal security service [said](#) that it detained Jordanian resident Anas Shurman in Nablus on March 15 for allegedly planning a suicide bombing in Israel. The Shin Bet said that Shurman was planning the attack with Hamas members based in Turkey.

Gaza

- On June 4, the IDF [said](#) that it targeted a Hamas compound located in the United Nations Relief and Works Agency (UNRWA)-run Abu Alhilu school in Bureij in central Gaza. The IDF specified that the operation was “carefully planned and carried out using precise munitions, while avoiding harm to uninvolved [civilians] as much as possible.”
- In a recorded statement on June 3, Israel’s Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu [said](#) that although Israel has gone “a long way” to secure the release of hostages, “we maintained the aims of the war, primarily the elimination of Hamas.”
 - » He added, “we insist that we achieve both [aims],” and “it is not something I am adding now, it is not something I am adding because I was pressured by the coalition. It is something we unanimously agreed upon in the war cabinet.”
- According to [reports](#) from June 3, numerous IDF generals expressed frustration with IDF Chief of Staff Lt. Gen. Herzl Halevi over their perception that the military is not making decisive achievements.
- On June 3, the IDF [said](#) that it used fighter jets to strike approximately 50 terrorist targets in Gaza during the past day.
- On June 2, the IDF [said](#) that it began an operation in the Yabna neighborhood in central Rafah near the Egyptian border, killing numerous terrorists and uncovering weapons.

- On June 2, the IDF [said](#) that it used fighter jets to strike over 30 terrorist targets in Gaza during the past day.
- On June 1, the IDF [said](#) that it recently discovered rocket launchers and weapons, including explosives, in Rafah after using a drone to search a building.
- On June 1, the IDF [said](#) that its elite Ghost Unit, among other troops, began a precision raid targeting Hamas in the Sabra neighborhood of Gaza City during the past week.
- On June 1, the IDF [said](#) that it targeted a building in Gaza City used by the organization Al-Noor on May 30, which the IDF said facilitated payments of millions of dollars to Hamas for the terror group's operations in the West Bank.
- On June 1, the IDF [said](#) that it killed high-ranking Hamas members Mansour Adil Mansour Kashlan, Walid Abed Abu Dalal, and Tareq Darwish in airstrikes in Gaza.

Lebanon

- On June 4, Lebanese media [reported](#) that two people were wounded in an Israeli airstrike in the Western Beqaa District.
- On June 3, the IDF [said](#) that it killed Hezbollah operative Hussein Sabra in an airstrike in southern Lebanon's Kauthariyet al-Rez.
- On June 3, the IDF [said](#) it [struck](#) a Hezbollah operative in Naqoura and, in a separate strike, hit a Hezbollah building in Hanine.
- On June 3, the IDF [said](#) that it used fighter jets to target Hezbollah assets in Naqoura, Maroun al-Ras, and Khiam.
- On June 2, the IDF [said](#) that it targeted a Hezbollah weapons depot in Mays al-Jabal, triggering secondary explosions. The IDF also said that it targeted a Hezbollah building in Hula.
- On June 2, the IDF [said](#) it used fighter jets to strike a Hezbollah building in Ayta ash-Shab and additional infrastructure in Tayr Harfa.
- Overnight on June 2, the IDF [said](#) it used fighter jets to strike a Hezbollah compound in Baalbek in response to Hezbollah shooting down an IDF drone the previous day. The IDF said the fighter jets also struck a Hezbollah building in Bint Jbeil and command rooms in Qana and Baraachit.
- On June 1, the IDF [said](#) that it targeted the launcher used to attack Kiryat Shmona with heavy rockets that day and that it targeted two Hezbollah combatants in Majdel Selm.
- Overnight on June 1, the IDF [said](#) it used fighter jets to strike "significant assets" belonging to Hezbollah in Ain Qana, Hmaileh, and Aadloun. The IDF said the fighter jets also struck Hezbollah observation posts in Tayr Harfa, Hezbollah buildings in Jebbayn and Khiam, a rocket launcher in Majdal Zoun that was used in an attack on northern Israel the previous day, and other infrastructure in Rachaya al-Foukhar.

Syria

- On June 3, Reuters [reported](#), "an Iranian Revolutionary Guards adviser was killed in an Israeli air attack in Syria on Sunday, Iran's semi-official news agency SNN reports," and "SNN identified the officer as Saeid Abyar without giving his rank."

West Bank

- Overnight on June 4, the IDF [said](#) troops killed two terror suspects in Tulkarem who were on their way to open fire at Israeli towns across the security barrier with an assault rifle.

- On June 3, Israel's Undercover Border Police unit [killed](#) a wanted Palestinian man in Nablus. The police and IDF said they entered the Balata camp near Nablus in order to detain the man, who fled armed with a handgun upon seeing the troops and was shot by Border Police officers. Several other gunmen and rioters throwing explosive devices were shot by troops.
- On May 31, Israel's Shin Bet security agency [said](#) Israeli forces had killed 18 members of Hamas's West Bank headquarters unit since October 7. According to *The Times of Israel*, the Gaza-based unit is responsible for advancing terror attacks against Israel from and within the West Bank.
 - » Israeli forces killed the head of the unit, Yassin Rabia, and another top member in a strike in Rafah this week.
 - » IDF troops have also detained nine members of the unit.

Humanitarian Efforts

- According to Israel's Coordination of Government Activities in the Territories ([COGAT](#)), from the beginning of the war to June 1, there have been 637,940 tons of humanitarian aid that entered Gaza on 33,064 trucks.
- On June 2, Reuters and *The Times of Israel* [reported](#) that “[*Egypt's al Qahera News TV*], citing a senior source, says that during the talks Egypt stuck to its position that Israel must withdraw from the Gazan side of the Rafah crossing for it to operate again.”
- On May 31, U.S. Secretary of State Antony Blinken [said](#), “the humanitarian situation remains dire for people in Gaza. We've seen changes, some positive changes, but the net effect is not there,” and “if you look at the number of trucks that are actually getting to Gaza and going in, it's up significantly, but distribution within Gaza is not working effectively, and part of the reason for that are the combat operations in the south.”
 - » He added, “the focus that we have ... is making sure that we're not just measuring inputs, [but] we're measuring impact. The impact remains insufficient in terms of addressing the acute needs of children, women and men in Gaza. But it's a moving story every day as we're working intensely to make sure that the different access points are working and then distribution within Gaza is working more effectively.”

Ceasefire and Hostage Negotiations

- On June 3, State Department Spokesperson Mathew Miller [argued](#), “the world should know—the Palestinian people should know—that the only thing standing in the way of an immediate ceasefire today is Hamas.” He added, “the proposal on the table is nearly identical to what Hamas said it would accept just a few weeks ago, and it is now time for them to act.”
- On June 3, *The Wall Street Journal* [reported](#) that Hamas's chief in Gaza, Yahya Sinwar, “is in no hurry to end the war, believing that it is drawing Israel into a quagmire that is turning the country into an international pariah while reviving the Palestinian national cause.”
- During a [speech](#) on May 31, President Joe Biden outlined a three-phase ceasefire and hostage deal that he said Israel has proposed to Hamas through intermediaries.
 - » According to Biden, “the first phase would last for six weeks. It would include a full and complete ceasefire, withdrawal of Israeli forces from all populated areas of Gaza, the

release of a number of hostages including women, the elderly, the wounded in exchange for the release of hundreds of Palestinian prisoners.”

- » During Phase 1, Israel and Hamas would “negotiate the necessary arrangements to get to phase two, which is a permanent end to hostilities,” the return of all living hostages in Gaza, including male soldiers, as well as Israel’s withdrawal from Gaza.
- » While the Phase 1 ceasefire would last for six weeks, it would continue so long as Israel and Hamas continued to negotiate, even if they have not finalized a plan to move into Phase 2.
- » Phase 3 would consist of the reconstruction of Gaza and the return of all remaining deceased hostage remains to Israel.
- » Biden argued that “at this point, Hamas is no longer capable of carrying out another October 7. This was one of Israel’s main objectives in this war—and quite frankly, a righteous one.”
- » He noted, “there are those in Israel who will not agree with this plan and will call for the war to continue indefinitely. Some are even in the governing coalition. They’ve made it clear that they want to occupy Gaza, they want to keep fighting for years, and the hostages are not a priority to them.” Biden added, “well, I’ve urged the leadership in Israel to stand behind this deal, despite whatever pressure comes.”
- » Later on May 31, Prime Minister Netanyahu’s office released a [statement](#) after Biden’s speech indicating that “the prime minister authorized the negotiating team to present an outline for achieving” the return of the hostages, “while insisting that the war will not end until all of its goals are achieved, including the return of all our hostages and the elimination of Hamas’ military and governmental capabilities.”
- » On June 1, the Israeli prime minister’s office [posted](#) on X that “Israel’s conditions for ending the war have not changed: The destruction of Hamas military and governing capabilities, the freeing of all hostages and ensuring that Gaza no longer poses a threat to Israel ... Under the proposal, Israel will continue to insist these conditions are met before a permanent ceasefire is put in place. The notion that Israel will agree to a permanent ceasefire before these conditions are fulfilled is a non-starter.”
- » On June 1, Saudi-owned, London-based Al Majalla magazine [reported](#) that it had viewed the text of the deal and that the first phase would occur over 42 days and include “33 Israeli women and children under the age of 19 (including civilians and soldiers, both alive and dead) as well as the elderly (over 50 years old) and sick and wounded civilian.”
 - During the first phase, under the terms of the deal, for each female or child hostage that Hamas releases, Israel will release 30 female or child Palestinian prisoners. For each hostage that Hamas releases who is sick, injured, or over the age of 50, Israel will release 30 Palestinian prisoners. For each female Israeli soldier that Hamas releases, Israel will release 50 Palestinian prisoners, including 30 serving life sentences and 20 serving lengthy sentences. If there are not enough living hostages to exchange, the remains of deceased hostages would be released.
 - Indirect talks about moving into the second phase would begin on day 16 of the ceasefire.
 - Humanitarian aid would expand to 600 trucks per day during the first phase of the deal.

- » On June 2, White House National Security Communications Advisor John Kirby [stated](#), “we have every expectation that if Hamas agrees to the proposal—as was transmitted to them, an Israeli proposal—that Israel would say ‘Yes.’”
- » On June 3, Israel’s *Channel 12* [reported](#) that Prime Minister Netanyahu told members of the Knesset’s Foreign Affairs and Defense Committee that there were gaps in what President Biden presented during his speech and the deal that Israel proposed.
 - According to *Channel 12*, the [discrepancy](#) lies in the deal’s clause 14, which is ambiguous, allowing for interpretations that the ceasefire will continue if negotiations in phase one last longer than six weeks or that fighting can resume if the negotiations are not genuine.
 - In response to a question from a reporter about Netanyahu’s comments on June 3, White House National Security Communications Advisor John Kirby [stated](#), “as for the gaps, I don’t know what gaps you’re referring to. I mean, I’ve heard different statements coming out of Israel. The Israeli Foreign Minister himself acknowledged that this was the Israeli proposal, that it was accurately—that it is the Israeli proposal. And we’re confident that it accurately reflects that proposal, a proposal that we worked with the Israelis on. So I know of no gaps to speak of.”

Post-War Planning

- On June 2, Israel’s Defense Minister Yoav Gallant [argued](#), “in any process of ending the war, we will not accept the rule of Hamas. We are advancing an alternative government to Hamas, within the framework of which we will isolate areas, remove the Hamas members and bring in other forces that will enable a different government.”
 - » He added, “on one hand, military action, and on the other, the ability to change the government, will lead to the achievement of two of the goals of this war, the dismantling of the Hamas government and its military power, and the return of the hostages.”

Iranian Involvement and Response

- On June 4, Iran’s acting foreign minister, Ali Bagheri Kani, [met](#) in Lebanon with Hezbollah leader Hassan Nasrallah during his first diplomatic visit to the country since his predecessor died in a helicopter crash on May 19.
 - » During his visit, Bagheri Kani [argued](#), “if the Americans are honest, then instead of proposing plans under the name of ceasefire, they must take one step, which is [to] end all aid to the Israeli entity.”
- On June 2, U.S. Central Command indicated that the Houthis had [launched](#) a drone from Yemen during the last 24 hours. U.S. forces destroyed the drone.
- On June 1, between 7:00 and 11:30 p.m. local time, the Houthis [launched](#) two anti-ship ballistic missiles over the southern Red Sea in the direction of USS *Gravelly*. U.S. forces destroyed the drones, and there were no reports of injuries or damage.
- On June 1, between 9:00 a.m. and 7:30 p.m. local time, the Houthis [launched](#) three drones from Yemen over the southern Red Sea. U.S. forces intercepted one drone and observed that two other drones crashed into the Red Sea.
- On May 31, at approximately 9:31 p.m. local time, the Houthis [launched](#) two anti-ship ballistic missiles from Yemen that crashed into the Gulf of Aden.

- On May 31, between 2:53 a.m. and 10:59 p.m., the Houthis in Yemen [launched](#) one drone over the Gulf of Aden and three drones over the Red Sea. U.S. forces intercepted the drones.
- On May 31, at approximately 1:30 a.m. local time, the Houthis [launched](#) one drone from Yemen that crashed in the Red Sea.

U.S. Response

- When asked during an [interview](#) with *TIME Magazine* released on June 4 whether Prime Minister Netanyahu is prolonging the war for political reasons, Biden responded, “there is every reason for people to draw that conclusion.”
- On June 4, the United States [submitted](#) a United Nations Security Council Resolution supporting the ceasefire and hostage proposal that President Biden outlined during his speech on May 31.
 - » U.S. Ambassador to the UN Linda Thomas-Greenfield argued, “numerous leaders and governments, including in the region, have endorsed this plan and we call on the Security Council to join them in calling for implementation of this deal without delay and without further conditions.” She added, “the Security Council must insist that Hamas accept the deal.”
 - Thomas-Greenfield noted, “members of the council have consistently called for the steps outlined in this deal: bringing the hostages home, ensuring a complete ceasefire, enabling a surge of humanitarian assistance into Gaza and in the refurbishment of essential services, and setting the stage for a long-term reconstruction plan for Gaza.” She argued, “Council members should not let this opportunity ... pass by. We must speak with one voice in support of this deal.”
- On June 3, President Biden urged Qatar’s Emir Tamim bin Hamad Al Thani “to use all appropriate measures to secure Hamas’s acceptance of the deal” that Biden had spoken about on May 31, according to a White House [readout](#) of their call.
- On June 3, White House National Security Communications Advisor John Kirby [explained](#) that Biden’s speech about the ceasefire and hostage deal “wasn’t about jamming the Prime Minister or the war cabinet. This was about laying bare, for the public to see, how well and how faithfully and how assertively the Israelis came up with a new proposal, how it shows how much they really want to get this done.”
 - » He added, “really, if anything, this was about putting some public pressure on Mr. Sinwar and Hamas, who has repeatedly refused to accept what Israel has put forward. They simply have not proven willing to take yes for an answer. And every time, the Israelis come back with yes.”
- On June 2, White House National Security Communications Advisor John Kirby [clarified](#) that President Biden’s claim during his speech on May 31 that Hamas could no longer conduct an October 7 attack “is based on accumulation of our own intelligence assessments across the intelligence agencies.” He added, “we’re also not saying that Hamas has been wiped off the face of the map. We have not said that Hamas has no military capabilities,” and “we have not said that they don’t still represent a viable threat to the Israeli people. Of course they do.”

- » He argued, “but they don’t have the military capabilities to do what they did on the 7th of October. From a military perspective only—as President Biden said—the Israelis have accomplished most of their goals in Gaza.”
- On May 31, House Speaker Mike Johnson (R-LA), Senate Majority Leader Chuck Schumer (D-NY), House Minority Leader Hakeem Jeffries (D-NY), and Senate Minority Leader Mitch McConnell (R-KY) sent a [letter](#) to Prime Minister Netanyahu inviting him to speak before a joint session of Congress.

International Response

- On June 3, the foreign ministers of the United Arab Emirates, Saudi Arabia, Qatar, Jordan, and Egypt [issued](#) a joint statement of support for the Israeli ceasefire and hostage deal proposal that President Biden outlined during his speech on May 31.
- On June 2, the Maldives [barred](#) Israeli passport holders from visiting. Israeli officials [warned](#) Israelis against traveling there, even if they use foreign passports.

Rising Antisemitism, Protests, and Attacks

- On June 4, over 100 delegates from European Jewish communities unanimously [passed](#) a resolution accusing EU top diplomat Josep Borrell of spreading antisemitism. The vote took place at a conference in Amsterdam about fighting antisemitism that the European Jewish Association organized.
 - » The letter argued that Borell demonstrated “a clear and repeated anti-Israel bias that has been a significant contributory factor to the ongoing antisemitism and the vilification of the state of Israel as a whole in the European public space.”
- On June 3, a man [threw](#) a Molotov cocktail at Israel’s Embassy in Romania. No injuries or damage were reported in the attack. The suspect, yet unnamed, is reportedly of Syrian origin.
- Overnight on June 3, the law office of one of the University of Michigan’s regents, Jordan Acker, was [vandalized](#) in what police are investigating as a hate crime. The law office’s sign was defaced, and “FREE PALESTINE,” “DIVEST NOW,” AND “U-M KILLS,” referring to the University of Michigan, were spray painted on the front of the building.
 - » Acker said, “make no mistake that targeting individual Jewish elected officials is antisemitism. This has nothing to do with Palestine or the war in Gaza or anything else. This is done as a message to scare Jews. I was not targeted here today because I am a regent. I am a target of this because I am Jewish.”
- On June 3, police [arrested](#) anti-Israel protesters outside of the Israeli consulate in San Francisco, California.
- On June 2, approximately 40,000 pro-Israel [demonstrators](#) marched in London, calling for the release of the hostages in Gaza.
- On June 2, supporters of Israel [marched](#) in the annual Israel Day parade in New York City.
- On June 2, police [arrested](#) 22 protesters at an anti-Israel demonstration at the Brooklyn Museum, including charging some individuals with assault.
- Overnight on May 31, the front doors of a synagogue in Vancouver, Canada, were [set on fire](#), causing minor damage and no injuries. Police said a liquid accelerant was poured onto

the doors of the Schara Tzedek synagogue and set alight. Congregants reportedly extinguished the fire before it could cause further damage.

- On May 31, after repeated requests to the organizers of the anti-Israel encampment at the University of Santa Cruz to remove their barricades and structures and disperse, police [cleared](#) the encampment and arrested at least 80 people. A spokesman for the university said the protesters were “blocking access to numerous campus resources and to the campus itself,” and called their actions “unlawful and unsafe.”

Since the War Began

Attacks Against Israel

- At least 15,000 rockets, mortars, drones, and other projectiles have been fired at Israel from all fronts combined during the war, according to JINSA data.

Casualties and Hostage Figures

- Over 1,200 people were [killed](#) in Israel, and 13,000 Israelis have been [injured](#) in the war.
 - » 644 Israeli soldiers have been [killed](#).
 - 293 IDF soldiers have been [killed](#) during ground combat in Gaza so far.
 - As of June 4, 1,882 IDF soldiers have been [injured](#) during ground combat in Gaza, including at least 370 who have been severely injured.
 - » Numerous foreign nationals have been killed in the war, including at least 34 [American nationals](#), 34 [Thai](#) nationals, 39 [French](#) nationals, 19 [Russian](#) nationals, 12 [British](#) nationals, 10 [Nepalese](#) nationals, 9 [Argentinian](#) nationals, 6 [Canadian](#) nationals, 4 [Philippines](#) nationals, 4 [Austrian](#) nationals, 4 [Romanian](#) nationals, 4 [Portuguese](#) nationals, 4 [Chinese](#) nationals, 3 [Brazilian](#) nationals, 3 [Belarusian](#) nationals, 3 [Italian](#) nationals, 3 [Peruvian](#) nationals, a [Cambodian](#) national, a [Chilean](#) national, an [Irish](#) national, a [Spanish](#) national, an [Australian](#) national, an [Azeri](#) national, a [Honduran](#) national, a [Swiss](#) national, a [Tanzanian](#) national, and a [Turkish](#) national.
- According to unverified figures from the Hamas-controlled Gaza Health Ministry, at least 36,550 people have been [killed](#) in Gaza, and 82,959 have been injured during the war.
 - » On October 25, 2023, President Biden [cautioned](#) against trusting Gaza Health Ministry casualty figures, stating: “I have no notion that the Palestinians are telling the truth about how many people are killed ... I have no confidence in the number that the Palestinians are using.”
 - » Israel’s Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu [said](#) as of March 10 that Israel has killed approximately 13,000 Hamas operatives over the course of the war.
- According to the Palestinian Authority-run Palestinian Ministry of Health, at least 502 people have been [killed](#), and at least 5,100 have been wounded in the West Bank.
- The IDF [claims](#) that it has killed at least 1,500 infiltrators from Gaza since the start of the war.
- So far, [105](#) hostages in Gaza have been released, [three](#) have been rescued by the IDF, [eleven](#) have been [found dead](#), three have been [mistakenly](#) killed by the IDF, and one was [killed](#) during an IDF attempt to rescue him.

- » 81 Israeli hostages have been released.
- » 46 hostages with foreign nationalities—some also holding Israeli citizenship—have been released.
 - Thus far, 23 [Thai](#) nationals, 6 [Argentinian](#) nationals, 5 [German nationals](#), 3 [French](#) nationals, 4 [Russian nationals](#), 1 [Dutch](#) national, 1 [Filipino national](#), 1 [Mexican](#) national, 1 [Uruguayan](#) national, and 1 [American](#) national have been released.
 - Hamas has released [36 children](#) and still holds two as hostages.
- Israel has said that terrorists in Gaza currently [hold](#) 133 hostages and deceased hostage bodies.
 - » Israeli officials have confirmed the deaths of at least [41](#) of the hostages captured on October 7, as well as two additional hostages who were abducted prior to October 7.
 - » On June 3, the IDF [confirmed](#) the deaths of four Israeli hostages in Hamas captivity: Chaim Peri, 79; Amiram Cooper, 84; Yoram Metzger, 80; and Nadav Popplewell, 51. All four of the men had appeared in Hamas propaganda videos. In March, Hamas claimed that Peri, Cooper, and Metzger had been killed by Israeli airstrikes. The four men had been taken hostage alive by the terror group on October 7 and were murdered while in captivity.
 - Rear Adm. Daniel Hagari [said](#), “we estimate that the four were killed together, in the Khan Younis area, several months ago, while being held by Hamas terrorists and while IDF forces were operating in Khan Younis.”
 - The IDF said the military will thoroughly investigate the circumstances of their deaths.
 - » On June 3, the IDF [announced](#) that it had discovered the remains of Dolev Yehud, 35, who was previously thought to be taken hostage by Hamas on October 7. The IDF determined Yehud was killed on October 7 after his body was identified in Israel.
 - » Many of the hostages are foreign or dual nationals, including up to 5 [American](#) nationals, 6 [German](#) nationals, 13 [Thai](#) nationals, 4 [Portuguese](#) nationals, 3 [British](#) nationals, 2 [Italian](#) nationals, 4 [Romanian](#) nationals, and 2 [Mexican](#) nationals.

Recent and Relevant JINSA Products About Israel at War

- Webinar: [Report Rollout: Strategy, Tactics, and Law in the Gaza War](#), with Gen Charles “Chuck” Wald, USAF (ret.), LtGen David Beydler, USMC (ret.), Lt Gen Thomas “Tom” Trask, USAF (ret.), LTC Geoffrey Corn, USA (ret.), and Blaise Misztal, May 30, 2024
- Gaza Assessment Task Force, [The October 7 War: Observations, October 2023 – May 2024](#), May 30, 2024
- Gen Philip M. Breedlove, USAF (ret.) and [VADM John M. Bird, USN \(ret.\)](#), “[The Strategic Imperative of U.S.-Israel Cooperation](#),” *RealClearDefense*, May 30, 2024
- Michael Makovsky, “[Israel’s Strategic Failure](#),” *Tablet Magazine*, May 29, 2024
- Webinar: [Gaza War Update 5/29/24](#), with IDF MG (ret.) Yaakov Amidror, IDF MG (ret.) Yaacov Ayish, and Michael Makovsky, May 29, 2024
- Gen Kenneth F. McKenzie, Jr., USMC (ret.), “[I Carried Out The Strike That Killed Soleimani. America Doesn’t Understand the Lesson of His Death](#),” *The Atlantic*, May 24, 2024